

NO. 532 RS. 30



Sudama





Illustrated Classics From India

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Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 430 stories from all over India have been told in this series that has been endorsed by educationists and recommended by teachers the world over.

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Amar Chitra Katha comics are like family heirlooms, passed down from generation to generation. These timeless illustrated classics are now also available online on www.AmarChitraKatha.com. Start your own collection today!

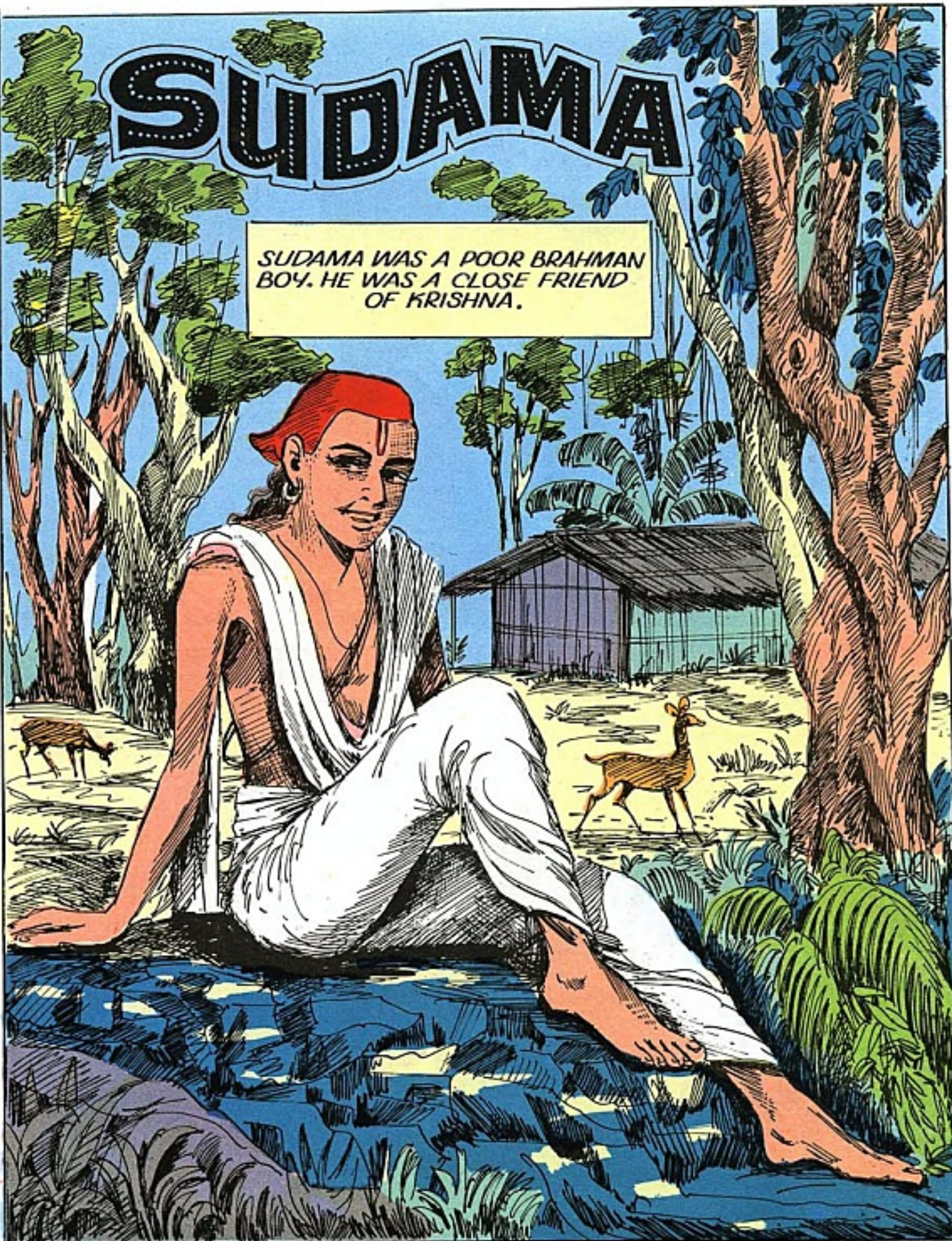
No. 532 • Rs 30



INDIA BOOK HOUSE

SUDAMA

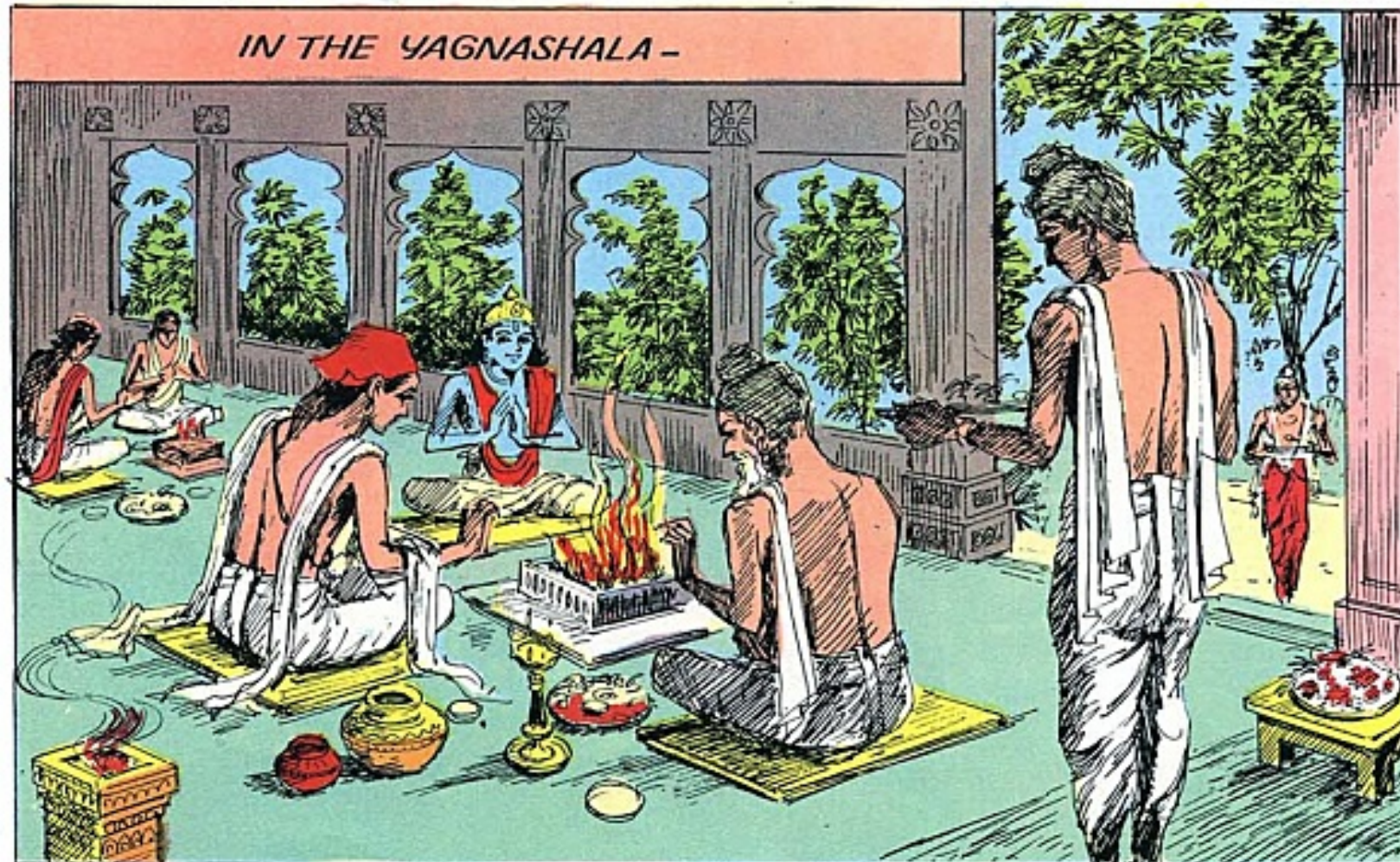
SUDAMA WAS A POOR BRAHMAN BOY. HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF KRISHNA.




SUDAMA AND KRISHNA HAD MET IN GURU SANDIPANI'S ASHRAM.



IN THE YAGNASHALA -






YOUR RENDERING OF
THE VEDIC HYMNS IS
ALMOST PERFECT.

I HAVE GOT IT
FROM MY FATHER.
GURU SANDIPANI AND
HE WERE GOOD
FRIENDS.

*SUDAMA OFTEN PRACTISED
WITH KRISHNA.*



*ONE DAY, SANDIPANI'S WIFE CALLED
THE BOYS TO HER.*



WILL YOU GO
AND BRING ME SOME
FIREWOOD FROM THE
FOREST?

SOON AFTER THEY
ENTERED THE FOREST...



...A TERRIBLE STORM BROKE OUT.



AT LAST THE STORM CLEARED, BUT
NIGHT HAD FALLEN.



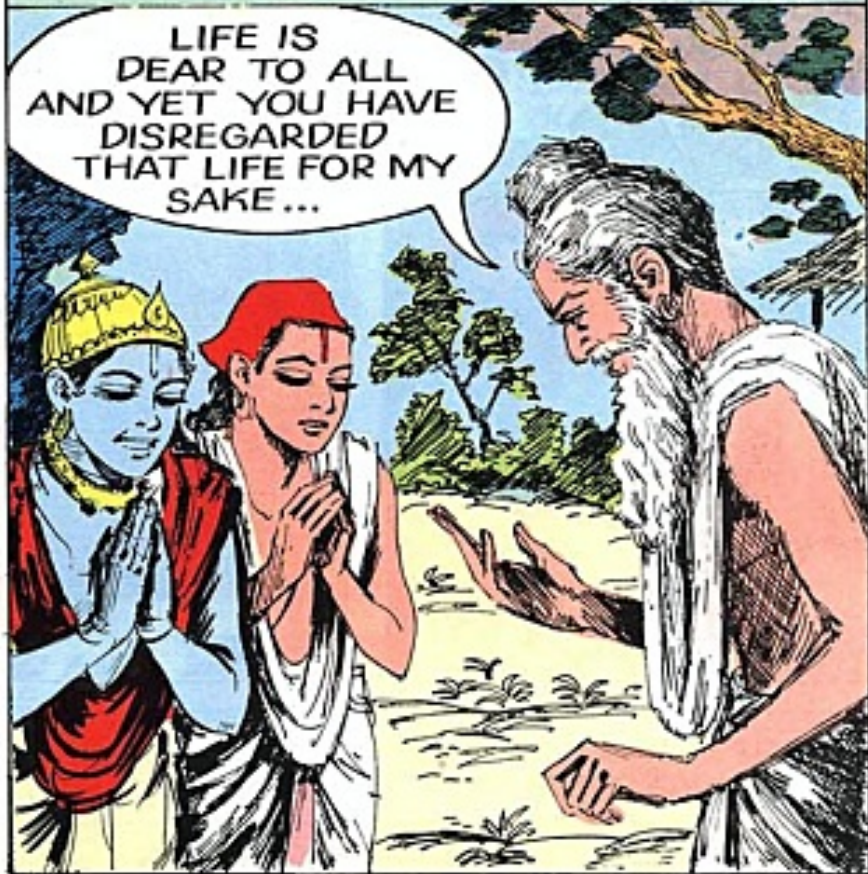
WHEN THE BOYS DID NOT
RETURN -

I AM
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
BOYS. I WILL
GO AND
LOOK FOR
THEM.



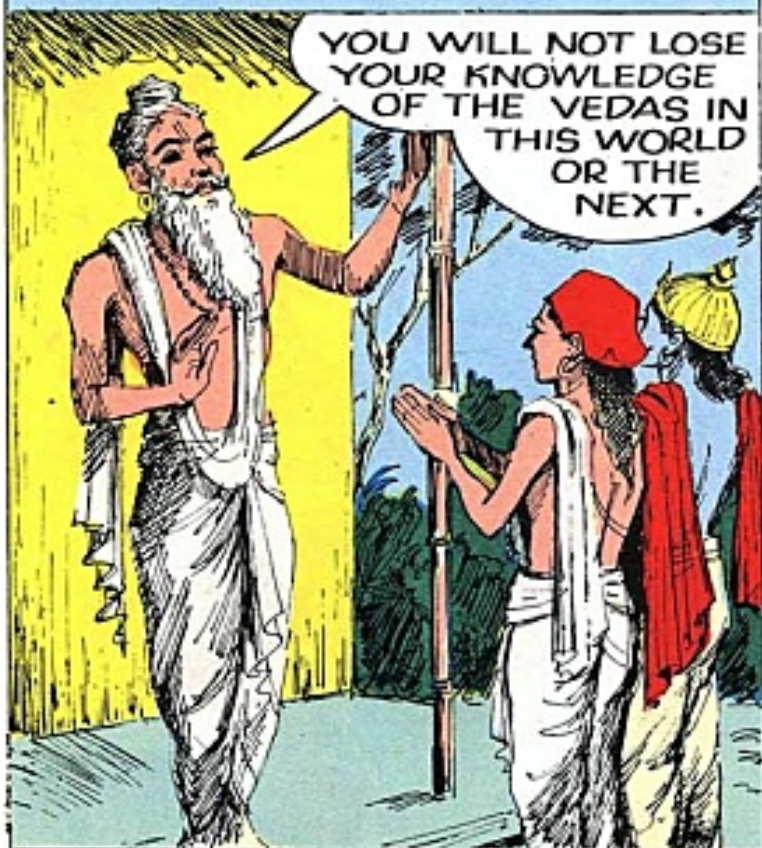
GURU SANDIPANI FOUND THE BOYS
AFTER A LONG SEARCH.

LIFE IS
DEAR TO ALL
AND YET YOU HAVE
DISREGARDED
THAT LIFE FOR MY
SAKE ...



AND HE GRANTED THEM A BOON.

YOU WILL NOT LOSE
YOUR KNOWLEDGE
OF THE VEDAS IN
THIS WORLD
OR THE
NEXT.



AT LAST THE PERIOD OF THEIR
STUDIES WAS OVER.

TOMORROW
WE PART
AND GO
OUR WAYS.



BUT I SHALL
ALWAYS
REMEMBER
YOU.

AND
I
YOU.



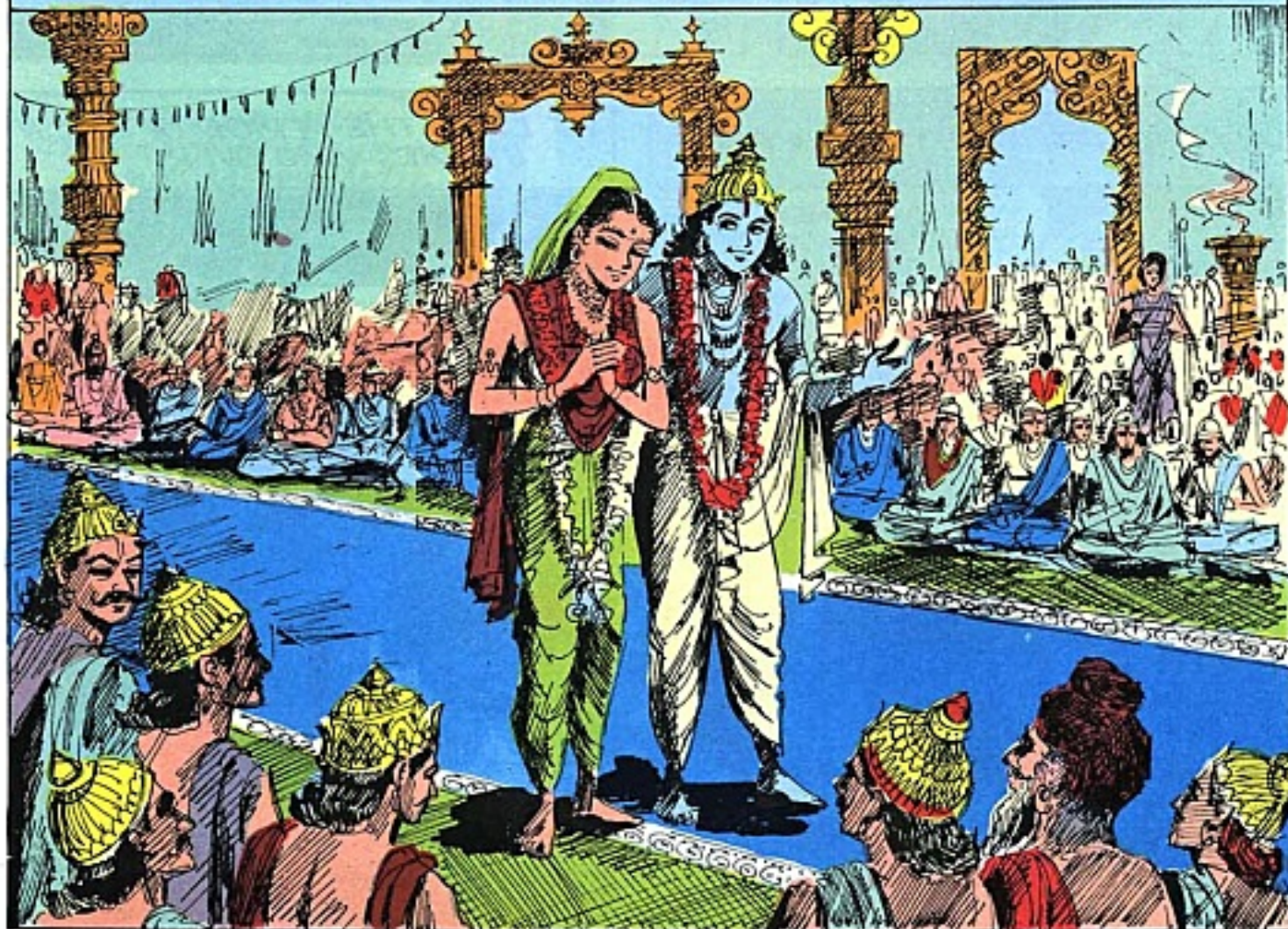
THEY TOOK LEAVE
OF GURU SANDIPANI...



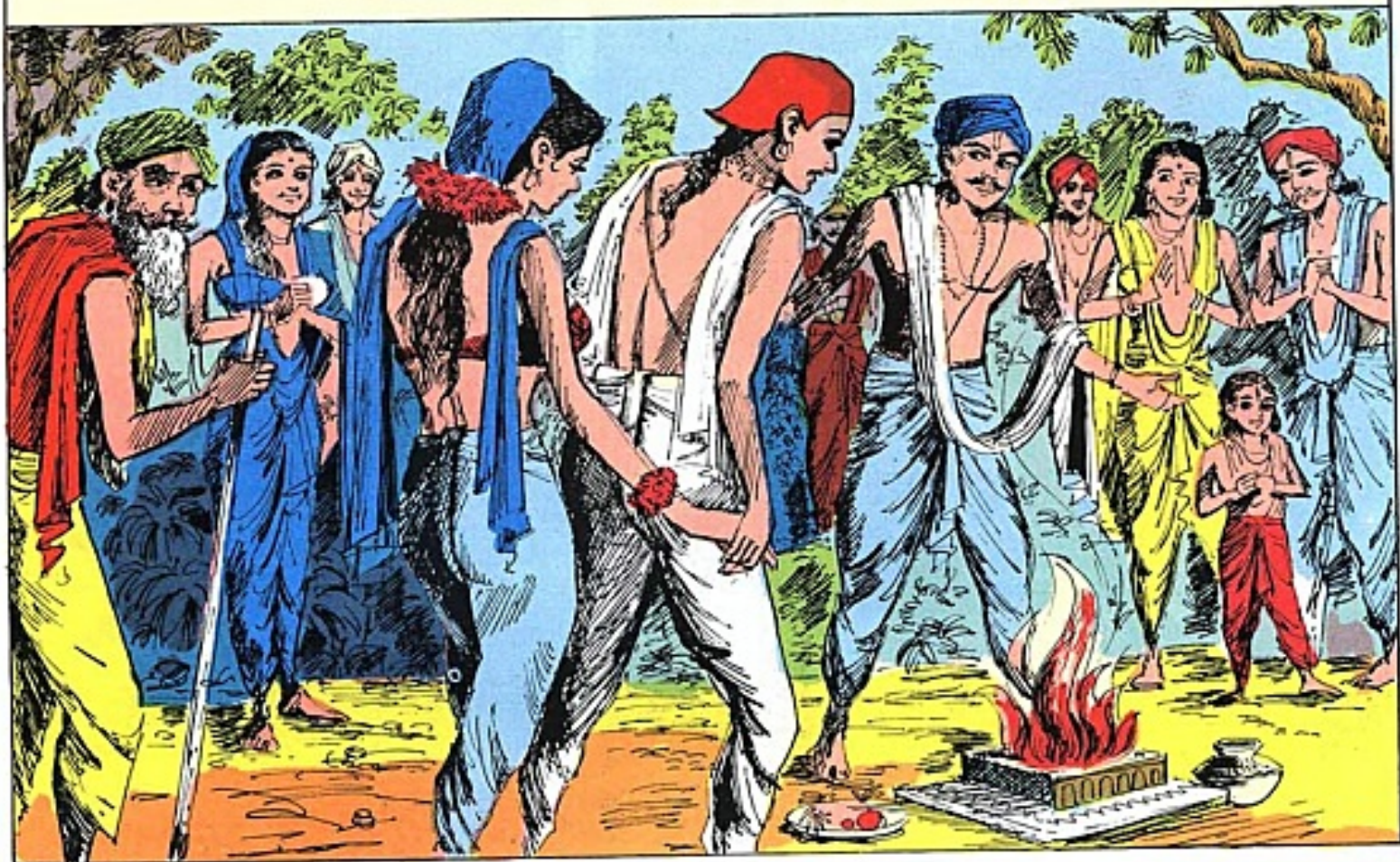
...AND LEFT THE
ASHRAM.



YEARS PASSED. KRISHNA BECAME THE LORD OF DWARKA AND MARRIED
PRINCESS RUKMINI, THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE.



SUDAMA MARRIED A BRAHMAN GIRL .



*HE DID NOT CARE FOR
WORLDLY PLEASURES...*



...AND LIVED IN DIRE POVERTY.



EVERYONE LOVED SUDAMA AND HE
HAD NO ENEMIES.



BUT HIS WIFE WAS SORELY
TRIED BY THE LIFE SHE
HAD TO LEAD.



SHE PATIENTLY BORE IT ALL...

THE LOVE OF
MY LORD
SUSTAINS ME.

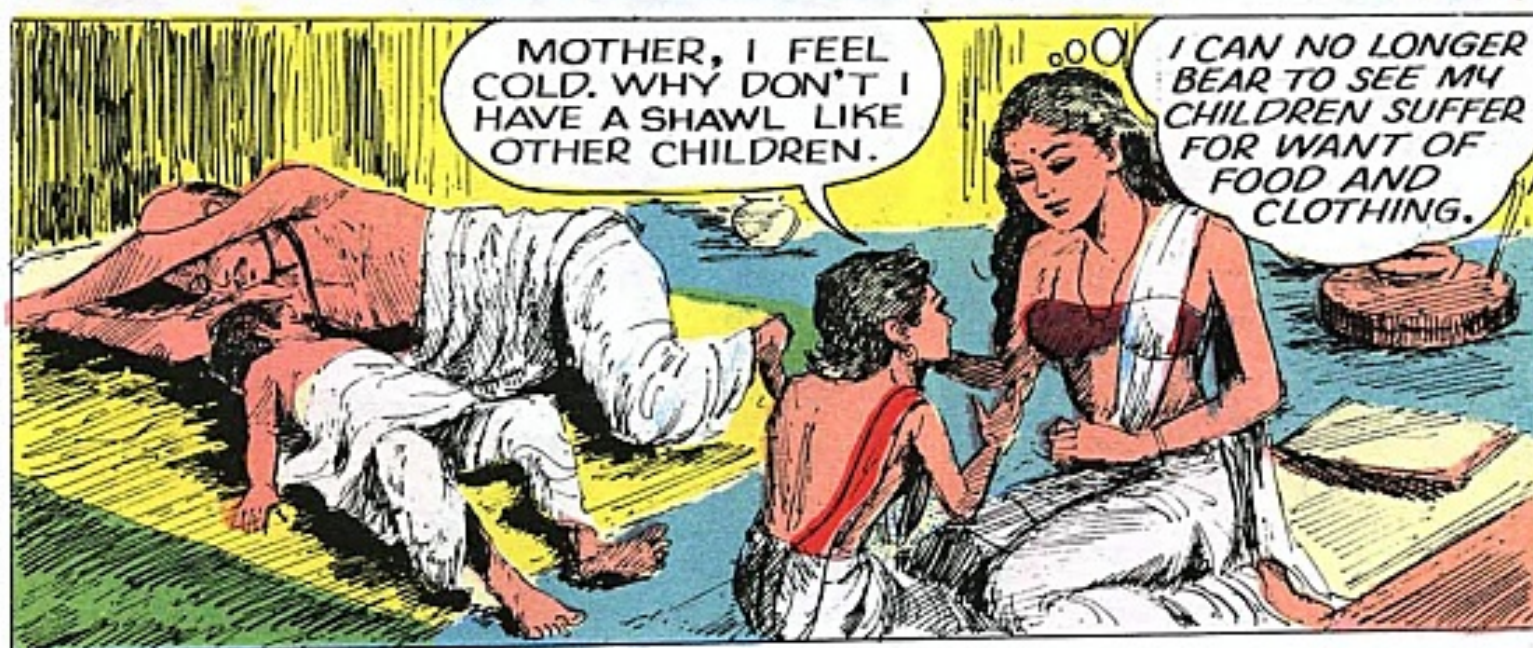
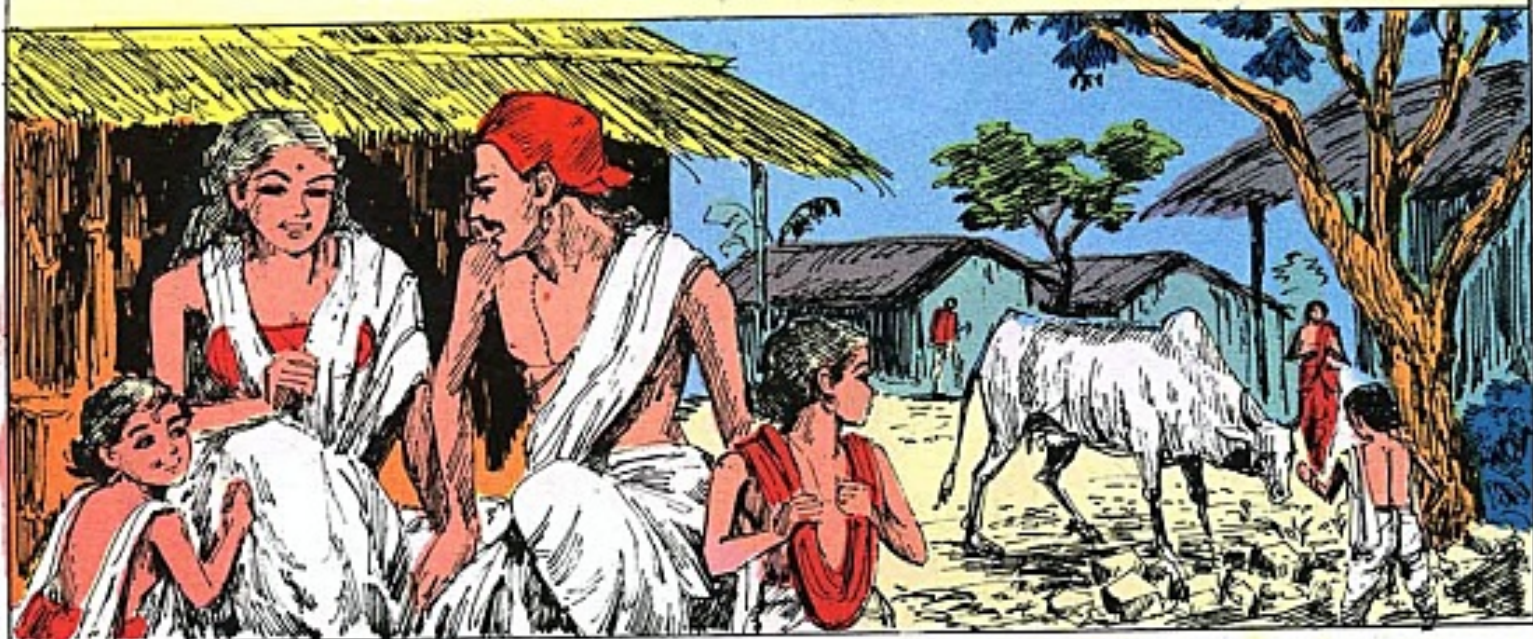


...FOR SHE LOOKED UPON SUDAMA
AS HER GOD.

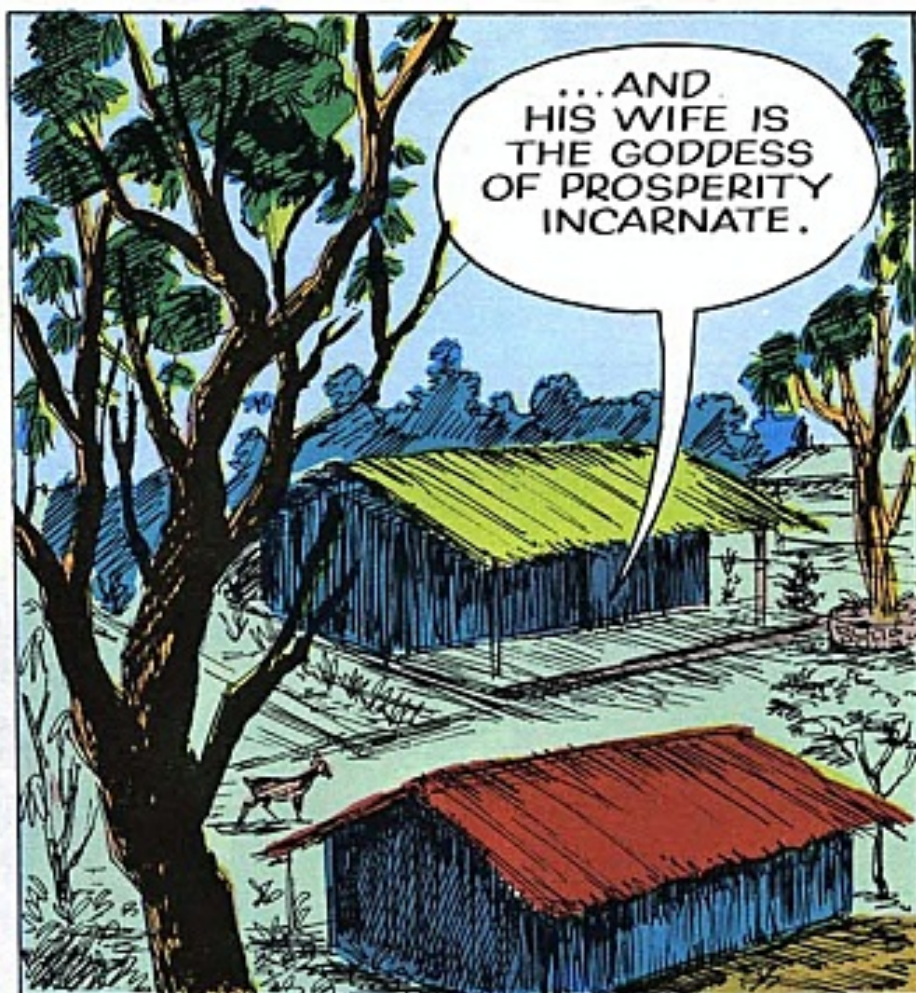


HE IS
MY GOD!

SOON CHILDREN WERE BORN TO THEM AND THE CHILDREN TOO
HAD TO LEAD AN AUSTERE LIFE.



THAT NIGHT WHEN THE CHILDREN HAD SLEPT —



THE PROSPERITY OF DWARKA FLASHED BEFORE HER MIND'S EYE.



GO MY LORD, I BESEECH
YOU, FOR THE SAKE OF
OUR DEAR CHILDREN
AND MEET KRISHNA.



THE VERY PROSPECT OF
MEETING MY DEAR FRIEND
AFTER SO MANY
YEARS MAKES
ME HAPPY.





I WILL
GO AND SEE HIM,
BUT I WILL NOT
ASK FOR
ANYTHING.



SUDAMA'S WIFE COULD BARELY
CONCEAL HER JOY.

MY LORD!
EVEN A VISIT
TO KRISHNA WILL
BLESS US. I
AM CONTENT,
MY LORD.



HOPE HAS
ALREADY
ENTERED
MY HEART.



LORD KRISHNA,
THE ALL-KNOWING,
WILL UNDERSTAND.
MY HUSBAND NEED
NOT EVEN ASK.
HE WILL GIVE.

ONE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME.

I CANNOT SEND MY HUSBAND EMPTY-HANDED.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THE HOUSE? ANYTHING WORTHY OF BEING PRESENTED TO KRISHNA?



SUDAMA'S WIFE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING.

MY LORD USED TO TELL ME HOW KRISHNA LOVED TO EAT POWA*.



SUDAMA TOO REMEMBERED HOW KRISHNA HAD SNATCHED SOME POWA FROM HIS HAND.

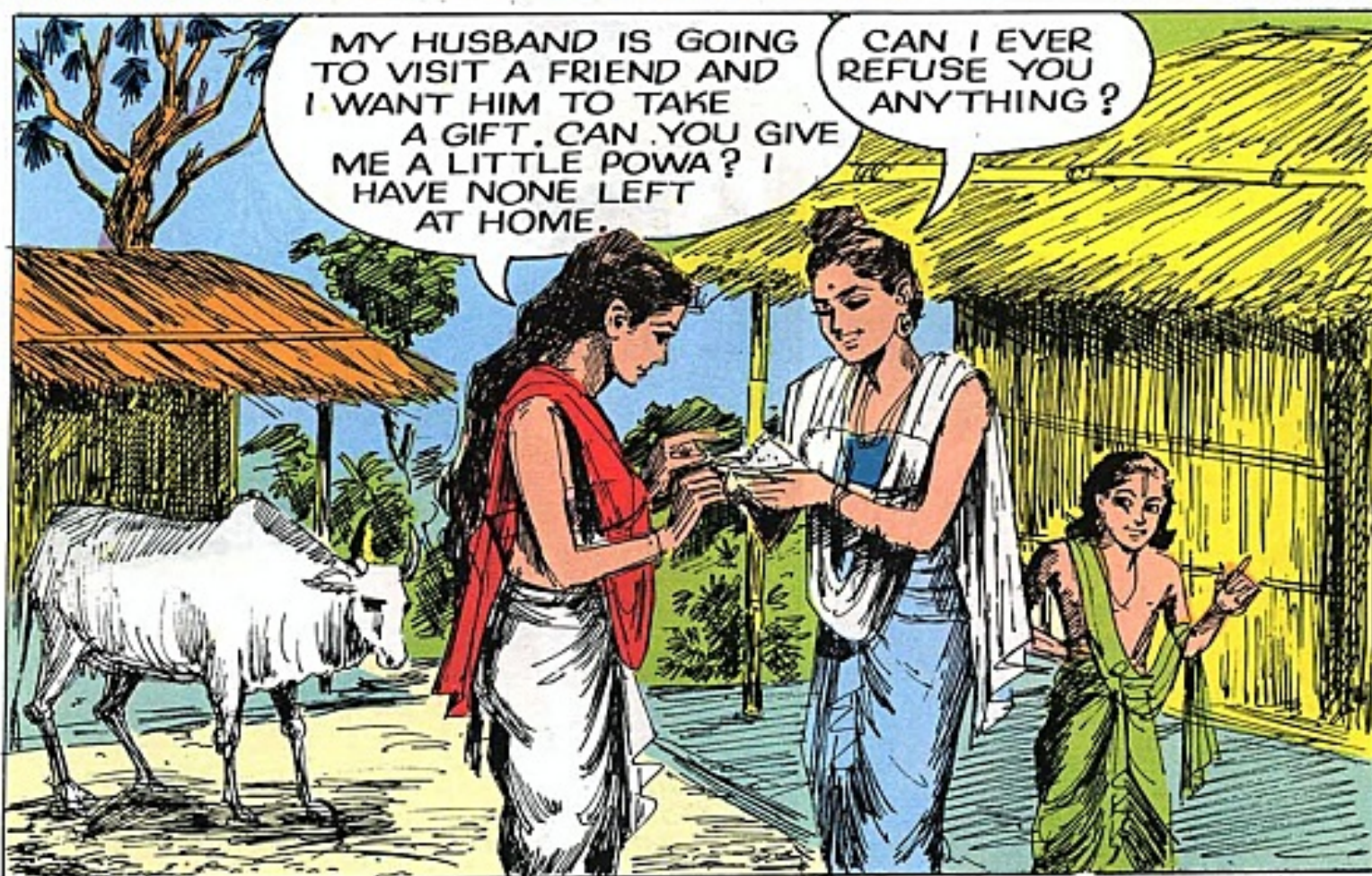
*FLATTENED RICE.



I'LL GO TO OUR
NEIGHBOUR AND BORROW
A FEW HANDFULS OF
POWA.



MY GOOD WOMAN,
SHE EVEN
REMEMBERS MY
BELOVED FRIEND'S
TASTES!



MY HUSBAND IS GOING
TO VISIT A FRIEND AND
I WANT HIM TO TAKE
A GIFT. CAN YOU GIVE
ME A LITTLE POWA? I
HAVE NONE LEFT
AT HOME.

CAN I EVER
REFUSE YOU
ANYTHING?

**SUDAMA'S WIFE BROUGHT
THE POWA TO HIM.**



**BUT SHE COULD FIND NOTHING TO TIE
IT IN SO...**



**SHE TORE THE END
OF HER GARMENT...**



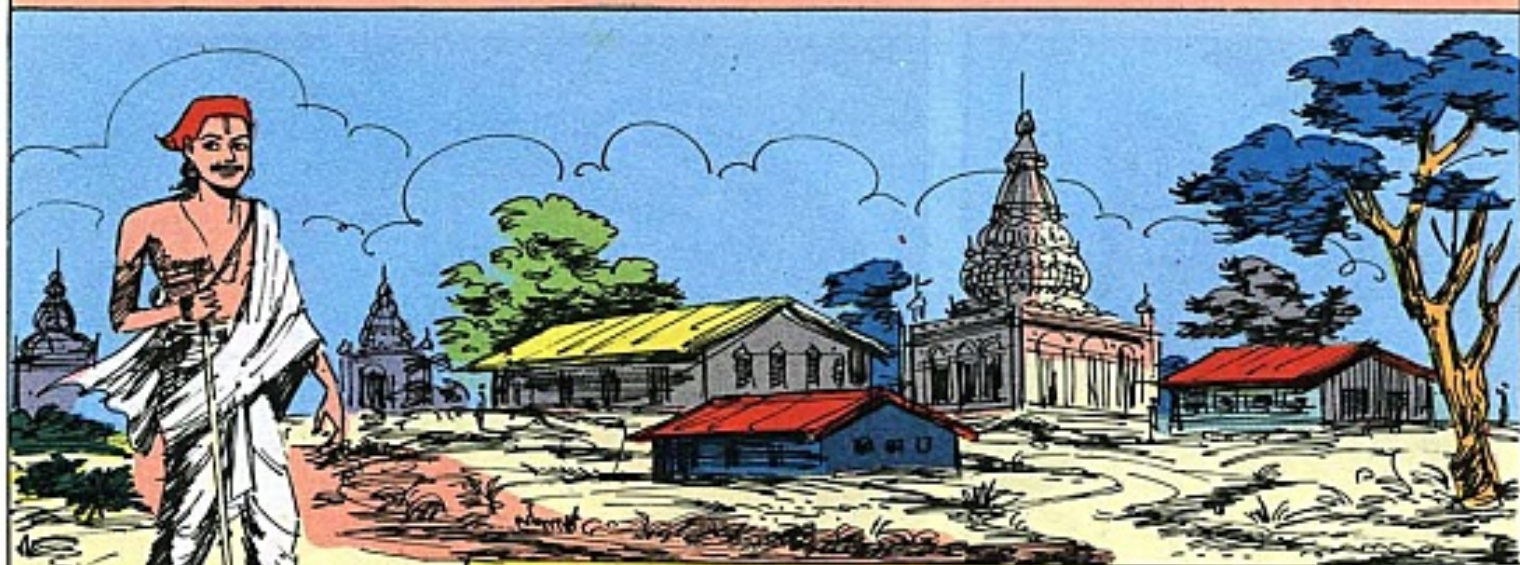
**...AND HANDED THE
BUNDLE OF POWA
TO SUDAMA.**



**HE TOOK LEAVE
OF HIS WIFE...**



...AND SET OUT ON THE JOURNEY TO DWARKA.



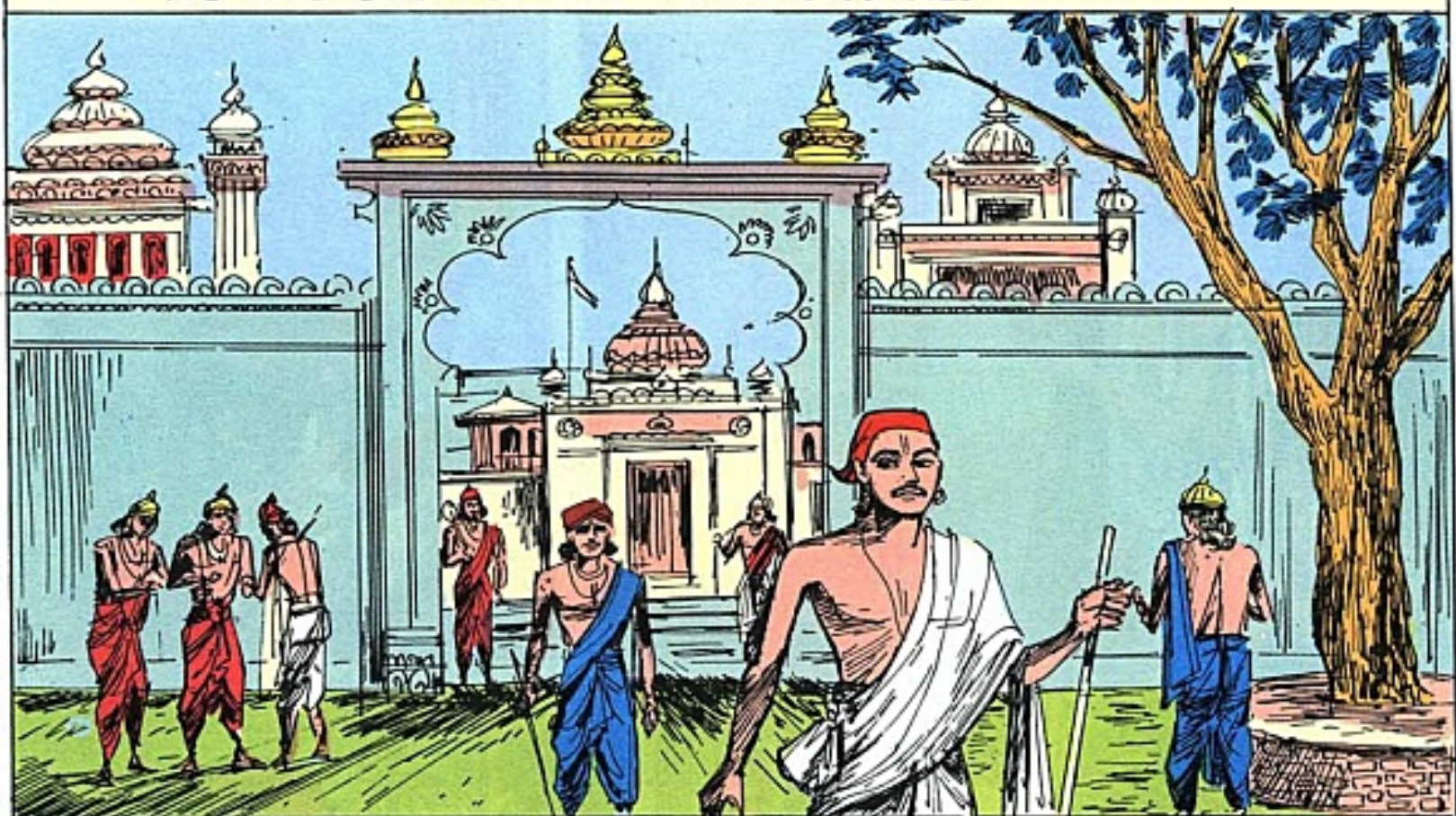
THE ROUTE WAS AN INTERESTING,
THOUGH LONG ONE.



AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, HE HAD REACHED DWARKA.



WHEN HE CAME TO THE OPEN GATES OF THE PALACE AT DWARKA,
NO ONE STOPPED HIM AS HE ENTERED.



HE WALKED INTO
THE PALACE GROUNDS



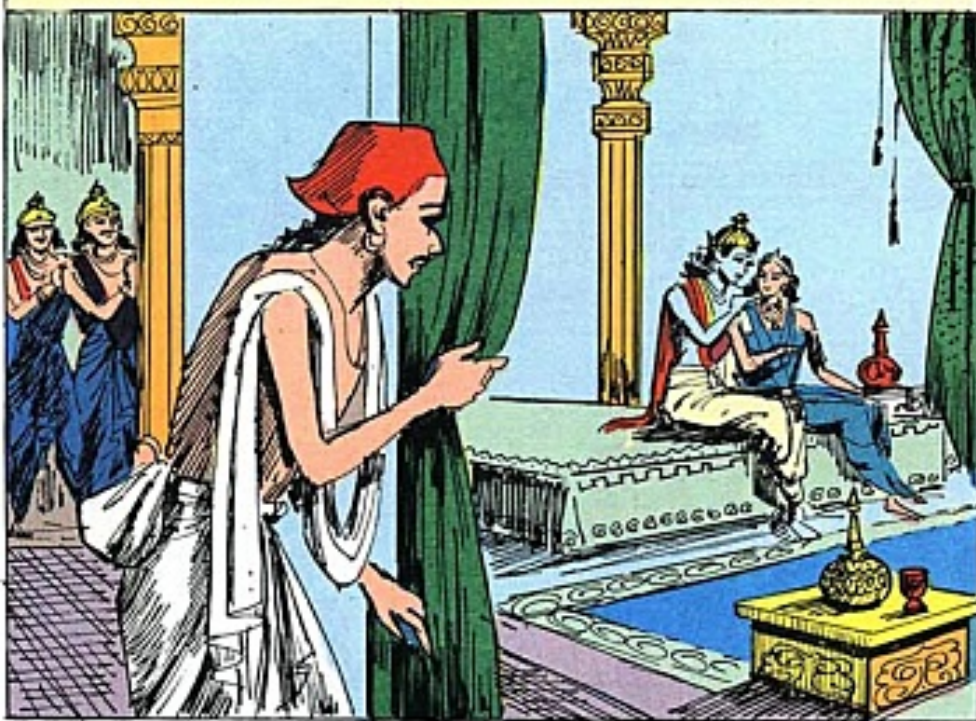
...AND THROUGH ROOM...



..AFTER ROOM.



AT LAST HE FOUND KRISHNA AND RUKMINI.



COME, SIT DOWN.
LET ME BATHE
YOUR TIRED
FEET.



KRISHNA,
HOW PLEASED
I AM!

SO
AM I.



KRISHNA APPLIED SANDALWOOD
PASTE TO SOOTHE THE TIRED
LIMBS OF SUDAMA.



AND PUT PIECES OF BETEL
NUT INTO HIS MOUTH.

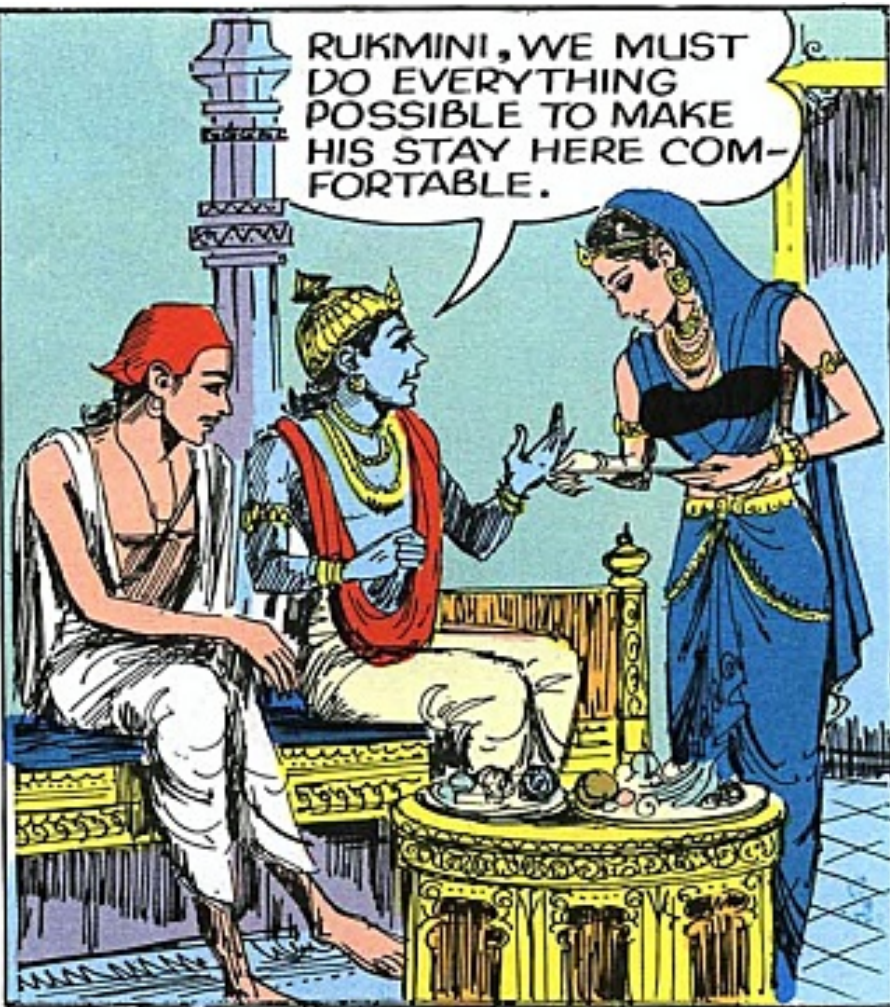


**THE PALACE ATTENDANTS
WONDERED.**

WHAT GREAT ACT OF
MERIT HAS THIS DIRTY
BEGGAR IN TATTERED
GARMENTS PERFORMED
TO BE SO DELIGHTFULLY
WELCOMED?



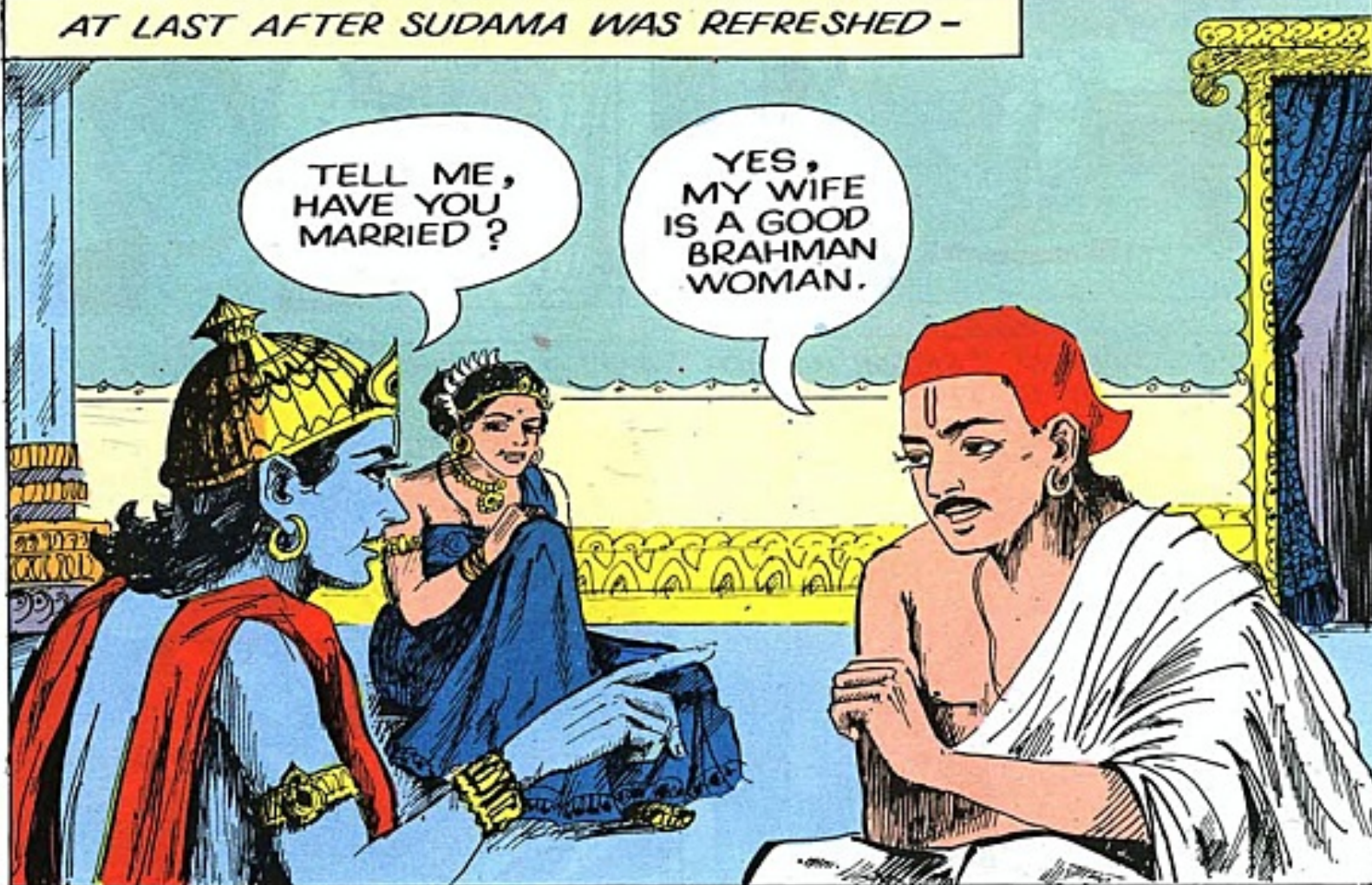
RUKMINI, WE MUST
DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO MAKE
HIS STAY HERE COM-
FORTABLE.

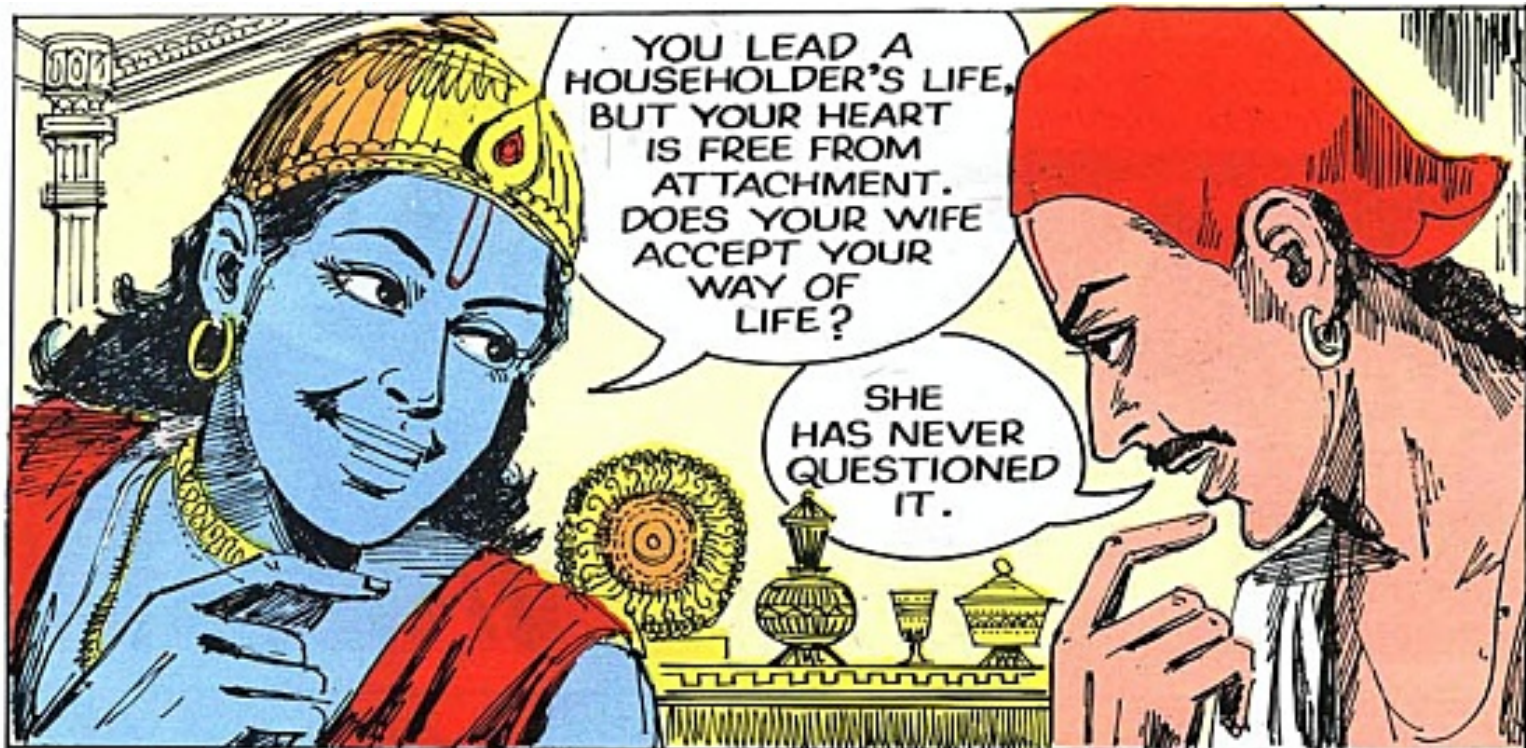


AT LAST AFTER SUDAMA WAS REFRESHED -

TELL ME,
HAVE YOU
MARRIED?

YES,
MY WIFE
IS A GOOD
BRAHMAN
WOMAN.





KRISHNA SAW THE RAG BUNDLE, TIED TO SUDAMA'S WAIST.



WHEN KRISHNA SAW THAT
SUDAMA WAS ASHAMED TO
GIVE HIM THE BUNDLE -

THE POOREST
OF GIFTS GIVEN
TO ME WITH LOVE
IS DEARER TO ME
THAN THE RICH-
EST OF GIFTS
GIVEN WITHOUT
LOVE.



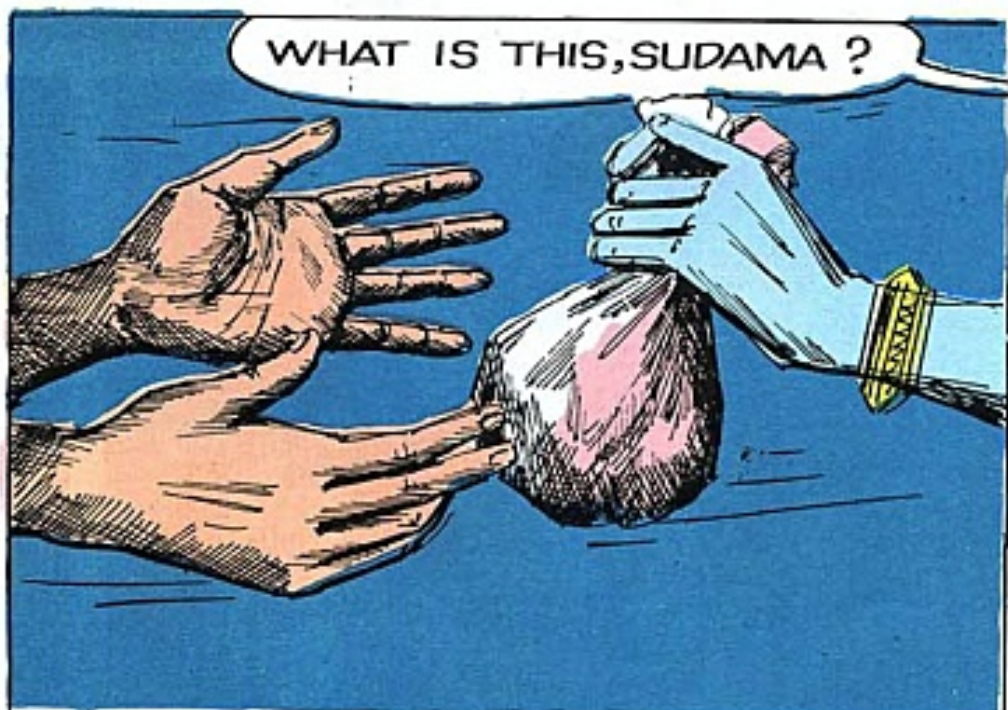
HOW CAN I GIVE
MY RAG BUNDLE
TO ONE WHO
HAS ALL?

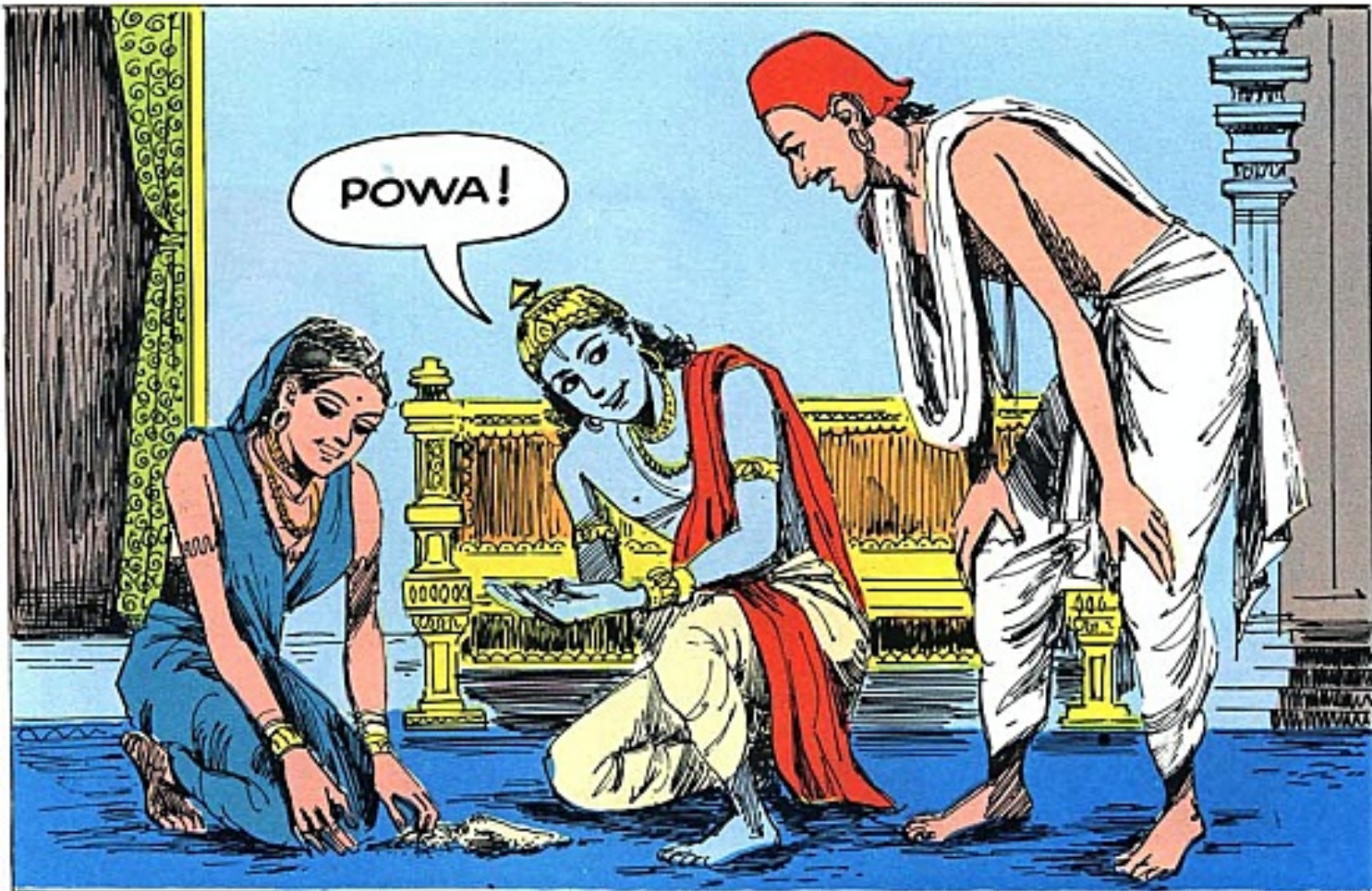


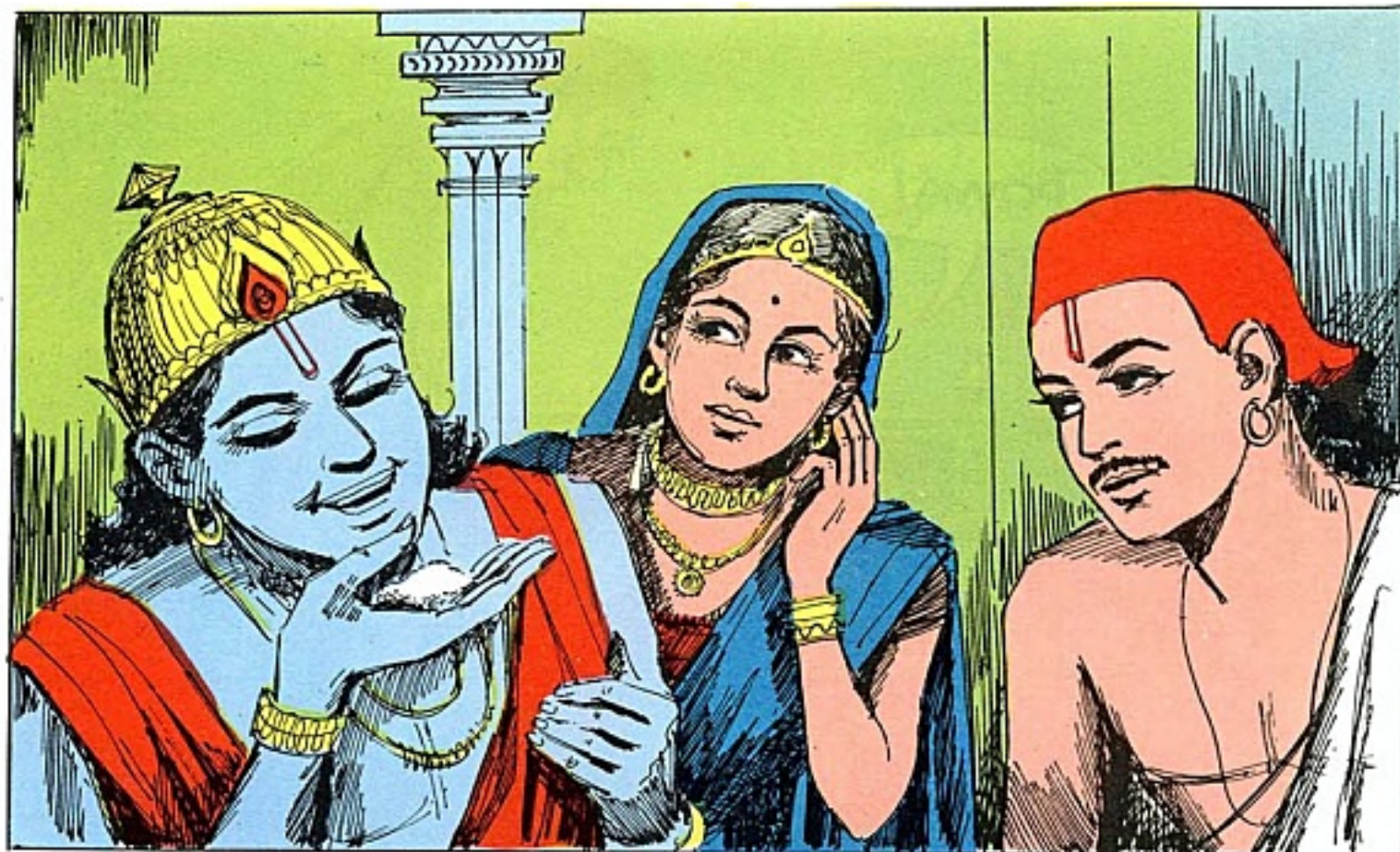
HE HAS NOT COME TO
ASK ANYTHING FOR
HIMSELF. HE HAS COME
OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS
WIFE AND ME!



WHAT IS THIS, SUDAMA?







WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO PICK A
SECOND HANDFUL -

ENOUGH,
MY LORD!



IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE
GODDESS OF PROSPERITY
INCARNATE TO CONTROL ITS
DISTRIBUTION.



LORD! ONE MOUTHFUL
IS ENOUGH TO GIVE
HIM ALL HE NEEDS IN
THIS WORLD AND
THE NEXT.

WHAT DOES SHE
MEAN? I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.



SHE IS RIGHT,
SUDAMA.

KRISHNA ASKED SUDAMA TO
SPEND THE NIGHT IN HIS
PALACE. AS SUDAMA LAY HIM-
SELF ON THE LUXURIOUS BED-

I AM
INDEED IN
HEAVEN.



THE NEXT MORNING
SUDAMA TOOK LEAVE
OF KRISHNA AND
RUKMINI.



DON'T FORGET US,
SUDAMA, WHEN YOU
GO BACK HOME.



ON HIS WAY HOME, SUDAMA RELIVED HIS RECENT EXPERIENCES.

THE MEMORY
OF MY MEETING
WITH KRISHNA
ENRAPTURES
ME.



I DID NOT
ASK AND HE
DID NOT GIVE.
BUT I AM
CONTENT.



HE RECEIVED ME
WITH GREAT
WARMTH.



HE EMBRACED ME
BECAUSE I WAS HIS
FRIEND.



HE SAT ME
ON THE
SAME COUCH AS
THE GODDESS AND
IT WAS SHE
WHO FANNED
ME.



SUDAMA'S FEET ACHED.

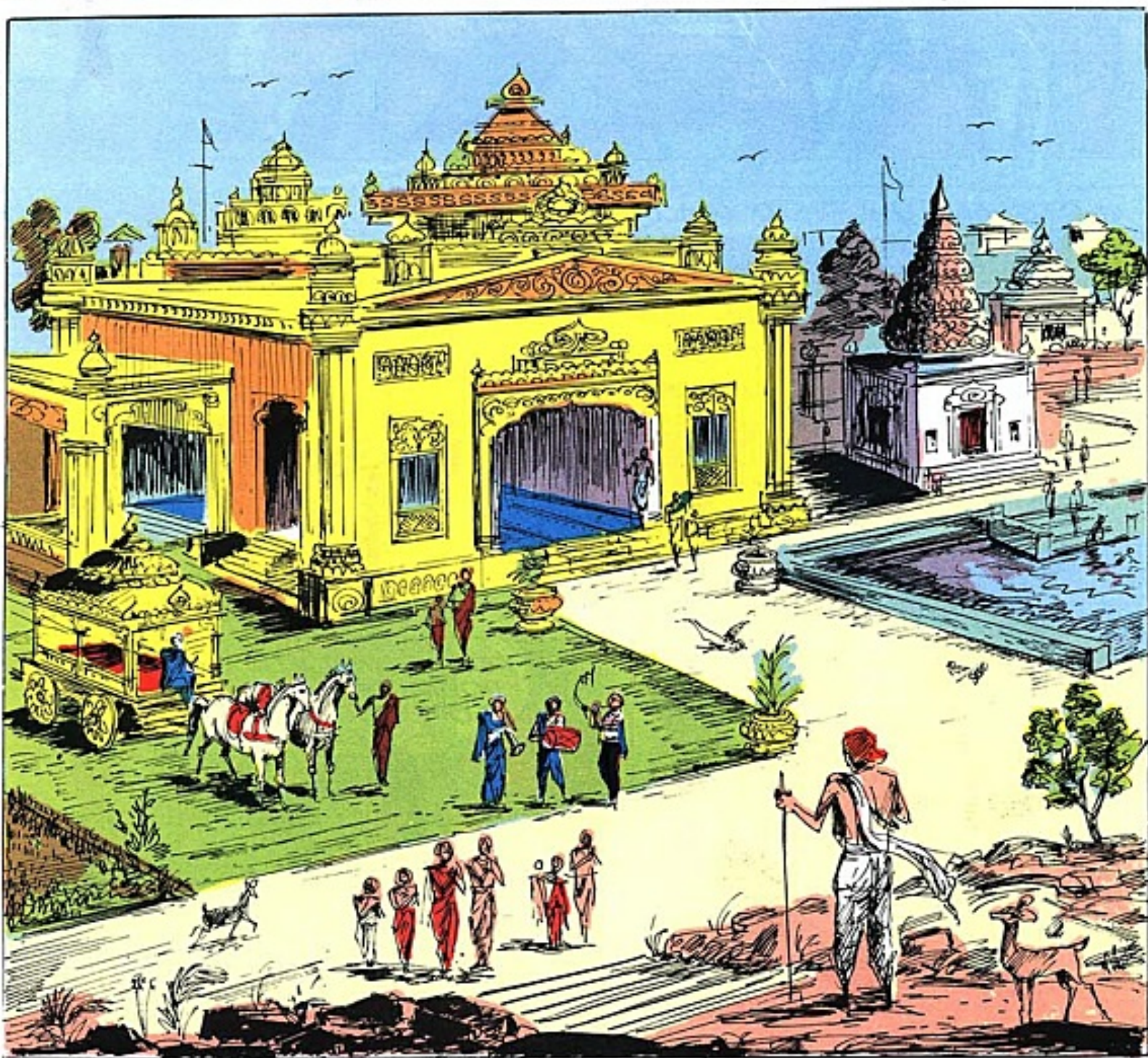


HE MUST HAVE
THOUGHT THAT IF HE
GAVE ME WEALTH,
I WOULD FORGET HIM.
HE HAS SAVED ME.
I AM FORTUNATE
INDEED.



BUT WHEN HE NEARED HIS HOME—

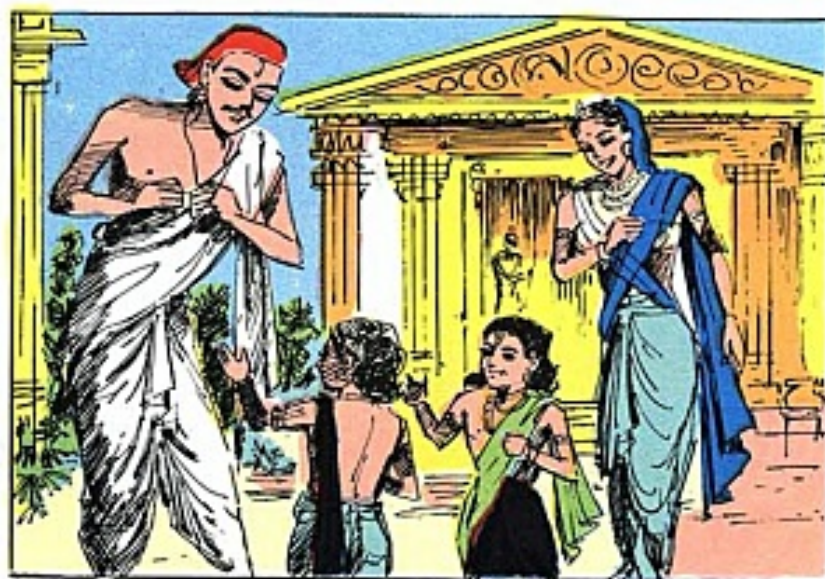
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
TO WHOM DOES IT BELONG?
WHERE IS MY HUT?



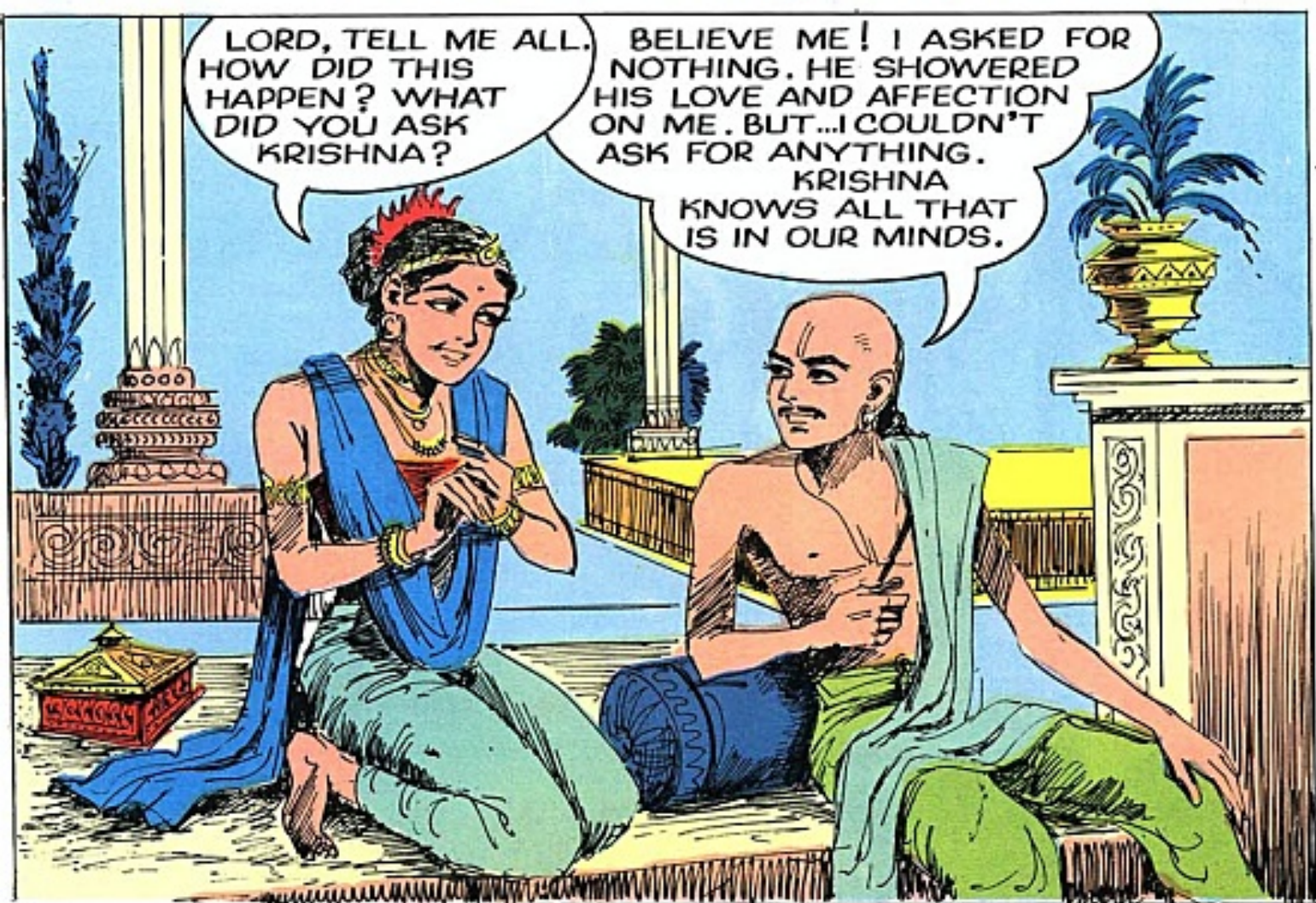
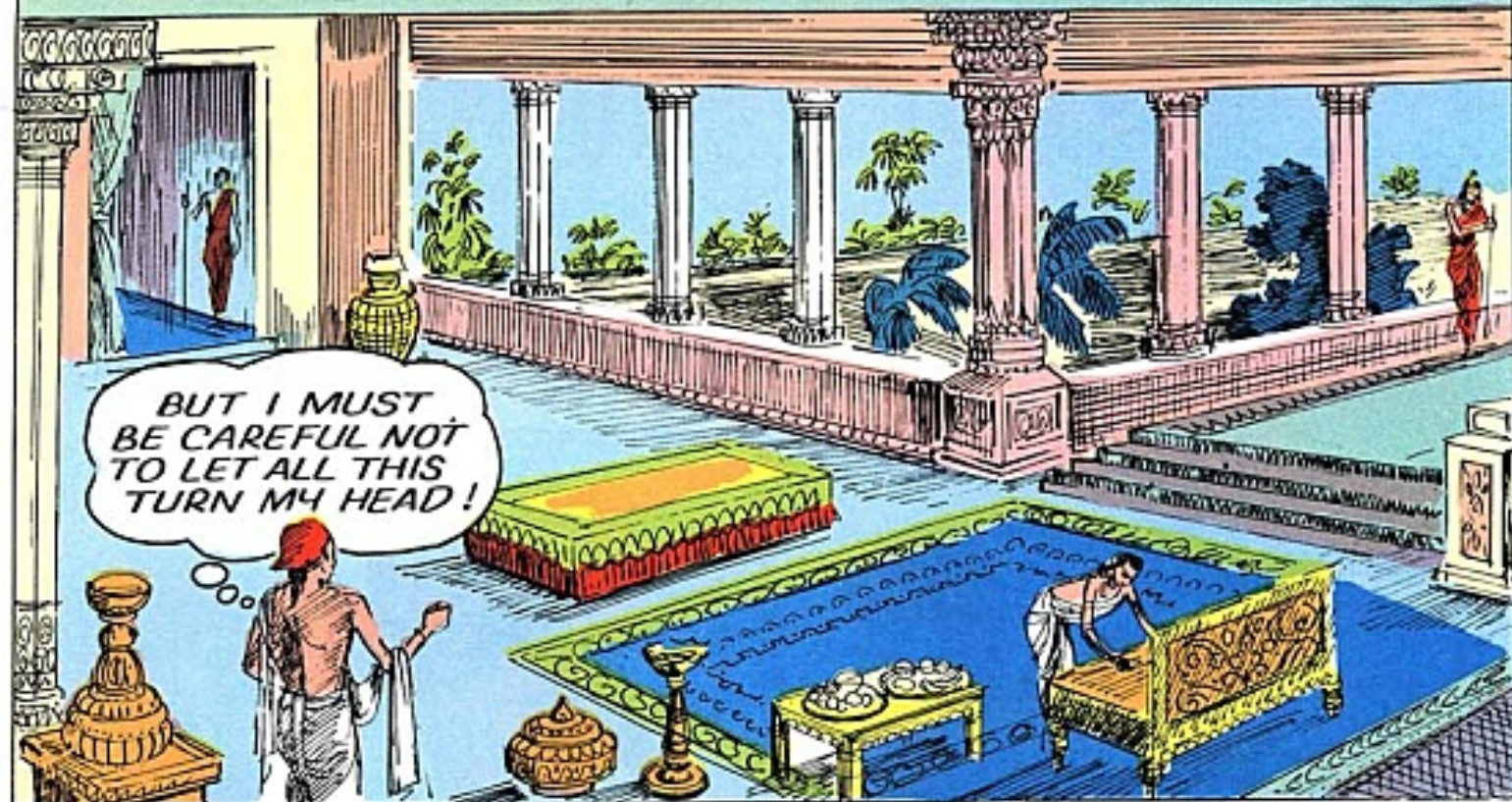
SUDAMA'S WIFE AND CHILDREN CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM, BUT—



AND SUDAMA UNDERSTOOD ALL.



WHEN SUDAMA SAW THE LUXURY WITHIN -



AND THEY TALKED ENDLESSLY ABOUT THE GLORY AND
GREATNESS OF LORD KRISHNA.





Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend, through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 400 titles have been published in the Amar Chitra Katha comic series that are approved by parents, appreciated by children and accepted by schools.



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Illustrated Classics From India

Sudama

The tenth book of the Bhagawat Purana, gives in detail the life story of Lord Krishna – his birth, early childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The many incidents narrated are full of adventure and romance and at the same time inspire, enlighten and guide human beings whose aim is to ennoble their lives and attain God.

The story of Sudama (a great devotee and childhood friend of Lord Krishna), which has retained its popularity with children down the ages, occurs in the same tenth book. The love of Krishna for Sudama forms the theme of many a devotional song and this story has been a source of sustenance of faith to the poor in the land. Sudama has understood the principle of non-attachment. He lives in dire poverty, and yet is happy. His wife too is content to do the same till some children are born to them.

How Sudama's wife coaxes him to go and see Krishna, his prosperous and generous childhood friend, and what happens when Sudama does is retold in pictures in the following pages.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Kamala Chandrakant Illustrations: Prabhakar Khanolkar

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